

## Public Release

The Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services, today announced its policy for free and reduced price meals for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and the Afterschool Care Snack Program.

State and Local school officials have adopted the following family size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

### INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES Effective 7-1-2012

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Free Meals</u>					<u>Reduced Price Meals</u>				
	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Twice a Month</u>	<u>Every two weeks</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Twice a Month</u>	<u>Every two weeks</u>	<u>Weekly</u>
1	14,521	1,211	606	559	280	20,665	1,723	862	795	398
2	19,669	1,640	820	757	379	27,991	2,333	1,167	1,077	539
3	24,817	2,069	1,035	955	478	35,317	2,944	1,472	1,359	680
4	29,965	2,498	1,249	1,153	577	42,643	3,554	1,777	1,641	821
5	35,113	2,927	1,464	1,351	676	49,969	4,165	2,083	1,922	961
6	40,261	3,356	1,678	1,549	775	57,295	4,775	2,388	2,204	1,102
7	45,409	3,785	1,893	1,747	874	64,621	5,386	2,693	2,486	1,243
8	50,557	4,214	2,107	1,945	973	71,947	5,996	2,998	2,768	1,384
For each additional family member add:	5,148	429	215	198	99	7,326	611	306	282	141

Households may apply for free or reduced price meal benefits one of four ways as listed below.

1. Households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for reduced price meals or for free meals. Households may complete one application listing all children and return it to your child's school.
2. Food Assistance households and children receiving benefits under the Family Investment Program (FIP) are eligible for free meals. Most children from Food Assistance and FIP households will be qualified for free meals automatically. These households will receive a letter from their children's schools notifying them of their benefits. Households that receive a letter from the school need to do nothing more for their children to receive free meals.
3. Some Food Assistance and FIP households will receive a letter from the Department of Human Services (DHS) which will qualify the children listed on the letter for free meals. Parents must take this letter to the child's school to receive free meals.
4. Food Assistance or FIP households receiving benefits that do not receive a letter from DHS must complete an application for their children to receive free meals.

Only complete applications will be approved by the school. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. If a family member becomes unemployed the family should contact the school to complete an application.

Foster children are eligible for free meal benefits. Some foster children will be qualified for free meals automatically through the State Direct Certification process. Their host family will receive notification of these benefits. Families that receive this notification from the school need to do nothing more for their foster children to receive free meals. If a family has foster children living with them and does not receive notification and wishes to apply for such meals, instructions for making application for such children are contained on the application form. Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals based on a completed application.

Households with children who are enrolled in the Head Start/Even Start Program or the Migrant Education Program or who are considered homeless or runaway by the school district's homeless liaison should contact the school for assistance in receiving benefits. If households are dissatisfied with the ruling of the officials, they may make a formal appeal either orally or in writing to the school's designated hearing official. The policy statement on file at the school contains an outline of the hearing procedure. School officials may verify the information in the application, and that deliberate misrepresentation of information may subject the applicant to prosecution under applicable State and Federal criminal statutes. Households should contact their local school for additional information.

**Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.**

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